

Message Text

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44

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 /015 W
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R 281300Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3296

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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DEPT FOR A/SY/FO, NEA/EX
BEIRUT FOR RMO; RSS

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI

SUBJECT: ADDITONAL MARINES FOR DAMASCUS

REF: BEIRUT 5110 (NOTAL)

1. REFTTEL INDICATES THAT EVACUATION OF DA NANG, NA TRANG
AND PHNOM PEHN HAS RESULTED IN AN UNEXPECTED AVAILABILITY
OF MSGS FOR REASSIGNMENT.

2. THE MARINE SECURITY GUARD IN DAMASCUS NEEDS TO BE EXPANDED
ASAP TO MEET INCREASED SECURITY NEEDS OF THIS EXPANDING
MISSION. USIS WILL BE MOVING TO THEIR NEW CULTURAL CENTER
WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND THE NEW AID MISSION SHOULD
OCCUPY ITS NEW QUARTERS SOME TIME AROUND THE END OF MAY.
THESE TWO INSTALLATIONS WILL INCREASE TO 4 THE ANNEXES,
GEOGRAPHICALLY SEPARATED FROM THE CHANCERY, WHICH REQUIRE
AFTER-HOURS SECURITY INSPECTIONS BY THE MSG. ADDITIONALLY,
ALL FLOORS ABOVE THE GROUND FLOOR FO THE CHANCERY ARE NOW
"SECURITY CONTROLLED", THEREBY REQUIRING MARINE ESCORTS
FOR NON-AMERICANS PERFORMING NORMAL MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR
SERVICES. DUE TO THE LACK OF SUFFICIENT MSGS ROUTINE REPAIR
WORK CAN NOW BE SCHEDULED ONLY ONE DAY PER WEEK IN SECURITY
CONTROLLED AREAS. THE REQUIREMENTS FOR AFTER-HOURS SWEEPS
OF ANNEXES AND EXCORT SERVICE FOR WORKMENT ARGUES, CONVINCINGLY,
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FOR AN IMMEDIATE INCREASE OF THE MARINE DETACHMENT BY ONE MSG.

3. HOWEVER, THERE IS A FURTHER REQUIREMENT FOR MSG COVERAGE ON THE HORIZON. THE EMBASSY EXPECTS TO COMMENCE WORK ON THE COMBINED COMMUNICATIONS CENTER (CCC) IN JUNE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE EMBASSY WILL BE EMBARKING ON A CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM DESIGNED TO IMPROVE OFFICE SPACE. BOTH OF THESE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS WILL TAKE PLACE IN SECURITY CONTROLLED AREAS. A SECOND ADDITIONAL MSG WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE SURVEILLANCE DUTIES DURING THIS CONSTRUCTION, NOW ESTIMATED TO TAKE UP TO SIX MONTHS. IN OTHER WORDS, THE EMBASSY URGENTLY REQUIRES TWO ADDITIONAL MARINES TO COVER OUR GROWING SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.

4. THE PRESENT MARINE QUARTERS NOW HOUSING FIVE MARINES, HAS ONLY 4 BEDROOMS WHICH REQUIRES THAT TWO OF THE MARINES SHARE THE LARGEST ROOM. TO HOUSE TWO ADDITIONAL MARINES WOULD MEAN DOUBLING UP IN TWO SMALLER BEDROOMS WHICH WOULD SOMEWHAT OVERCROWD COMMON FACILITIES AND COULD HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE MORALE OF THE MARINE DETACHMENT. THIS PROBLEM MIGHT BE PARTIALLY RELIEVED IF THE MARINE TEMPORARILY ASSIGNED TO PROVIDE SURVEILLANCE DURING THE CCC CONSTRUCTION COULD BE QUARTERED IN THE TEMPORARY APARTMENT NOW CONTEMPLATED TO HOUSE SEABEES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT SUPPORT EMBASSY'S REQUEST FOR FOLLOWING:

1. IMMEDIATE INCREASE OF MSG DETACHMENT BY ONE MSG.
 2. TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT IN LATE JUNE OF SECOND MSG TO PROVIDE SURVEILLANCE DUTY DURING CCC CONSTRUCTION.
- MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC01554
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750148-0704
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975048/aaaaahla.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BEIRUT 5110
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <04 SEP 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDITIONAL MARINES FOR DAMASCUS
TAGS: ASEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006